

North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan

Restoration Plan Database: Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

I. BASIC PLAN DATA

Plan name:

North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan

Brief description of plan:

The purpose of the North Carolina NERR is to manage the four components as natural laboratories and to develop a coordinated program of research and education for the Reserve. A coordinated management approach will be used involving the DCM; federal, state, and local agencies; private organizations; and advisory committees. This management plan for the North Carolina NERR revises the plan adopted by the Reserve in 1990. The purpose of this plan is to inform interested parties about the Reserve and activities that will be performed every two years and revised every five years. The North Carolina NERR has several different sites/components to adequately represent the estuarine diversity of the state. The four components are 1. Currituck Banks (Currituck County), 2. Rachel Carson (Carteret County), 3. Masonboro Island (New Hanover County), and 4. Zeke's Island (Brunswick-New Hanover Counties). These sites span the 300-mile length of the North Carolina barrier island system.

Region the plan is located within:

South-Atlantic Region

Watershed(s) included within the plan:

S005x , S035x , S040x , S042x , S045x , S048x , S050x , S053x

Area plan covers (in square miles):

square miles

Plan scale:

Multi-county

Plan's lead organization(s):

NOAA, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Plan's Main Contact Information:

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On-line version of plan:

Date of original plan:

1990

Date of plan update:

1998

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plan includes restoration goals: Y

Level of detail of the goals:

G

Summary of the goals:

The North Carolina NERR stewardship plan addresses past, present and future conditions that have affected or can affect the integrity of the estuarine ecosystem. This plan has four goals; 1. Ensure a stable environment for research and education, long-term protection of estuarine areas, including open water, transitional area wetlands, and adjacent uplands; 2. Preserve and protect habitats of native plant and animal species, particularly federal and stat-listed species, to maintain the biodiversity of each component; 3. Provide public access for compatible traditional uses and monitor their effects on the sites as needed; 4. Restore degraded areas (e.g., sites negatively impacted by visitors, dredge material areas) to a former, more natural condition when appropriate and practicable, and when the restoration will enhance the research or educational value of the Reserve.

Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:

Y

Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:

Y

Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:

Y

Partners included in developing the plan:

Federal
State
Academia
Private landowners

Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:

Information not available

Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):

N

Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:

N

Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:

N

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:

G

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:

G

The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:

N

Other plan names:

Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):

Y

Summary of this habitat information:

Given the diversity of habitats and uses within the various components, occasional restoration projects may be necessary. For example, dredge material islands along the waterway side of Masonboro Island represent former salt marshes that have been filled. Portions of these islands located outside of the Crops easement are available for mitigation projects where marsh could be restored and, thus, increase the Reserve estuarine area. There would also be an opportunity for long-term monitoring of structure and function within the restored habitat. Likewise, areas within components that have experienced damage from traditional use (e.g., trampling) may require remedial action.